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JACOBINI CHARLES
77 BUENOS AIRES 4638
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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4638 E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, AR, US, EFIN SUBJECT: GOA NOTES HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 138380; (B) BUENOS AIRES 4444, (C) BUENOS AIRES 4483

SUMMARY: AS ANTICIPATED IN DEMARCHES BY MARTINEZ DE HOZ IN BUENOS AIRES (REFTEL B) AND AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL IN

WASHINGTON (REFTEL A), ARGENTINE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF ACTIONS JUNE 14 THAT BEAR ON THE COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE OVERSEAS: THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDE THE RELEASE OF 342 PERSONS FROM EXECUTIVE CUSTODY, PROCESSING OF ALMOST 1.000 SUBVERSIVE CASES IN FEDERAL AND MINITARLY COURTS.

POSSIBLE REINSTATEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF OPTION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, AND BANNING OF TWO ISSUES OF A FAR RIGHT, RACIST MAGAZINE. WHILE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THEMSELVES SHOW LITTLE BY WAY OF CERTIFIABLE SUBSTANTIVE

CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO COMPILE EXAMPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS DEMONSTRATES ITS RISING SENSITIVITY TO THE

SERIOUSNESS OF THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND OUR ADVERSE VOTES IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: END SUMMARY

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1. AS NOTED IN REFTEL B. GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA'S (GOA'S) PRESENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS DEMONSTRATES BASICALLY PRIENDLY GESTURES, AND INCREASED CONCERN ON THE PART OF GOA OFFICIALS TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP IN RESPONSE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. THE

LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN, HOWEVER, SHOWS LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE. AS ANTICIPATED, THE GOA ACTIONS AND COMMUNIQUES WERE RELEASED

JUNE 14 AND PUBLISHED IN JUNE 15 PRESS. 2. AS A 15-DAY COMPENDIUM THE LISTING OF 342 PERSONS CITED AS

NO LONGER BEING HELD AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE IS CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN THE TYPICAL WEEKLY LISTS PUT OUT BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. FURTHER, THERE IS NO WAY IMMEDIATELY TO VERIFY THAT PERSONS LISTED HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN RELEASED.

(MARTINEZ DE HOZ DID. HOWEVER, TELL CHARGE THAT THE PERSONS LISTED WERE DEFINITELY BEING PHYSICALLY RELEASED FROM DETENTION AND NOT JUST PASSED TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.) CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SHP Change to (4) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny ( ) Declassify Exemptions b ( ) ( ) E.O. 13528-25x ( )( )( ) Declassify after \_ With concurrence of:

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PERMANENT ASSEMBLY DIRECTOR JOSE WESTERKAMP (WHO HOSTED

PATRICIA DERIAN'S MEETING WITH ASSEMBLY IN MARCH) TOLD EMBOFF

ON JUNE 14 ABOUT THE PARTICULAR CASE OF A BOY JAILED WITH

WESTERKAMP'S SON IN SIERRA CHICA PRISON WHOSE NAME HAS APPEARED

TWICE ON THE RELEASE LISTS AND ONCE ON THE LIST OF PERSONS

NEWLY DETAINED BY THE EXECUTIVE. THE BOY HIMSELF WAS NEVER

INFORMED OF THE PUBLICATION OF ANY OF THE LISTS AND HIS STATUS

AS A DETAINEE UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS HAS IN FACT

REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR.

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6.0. 11652: GDS F.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PORG, SHUM, AR, US, EFIN SUBJECT: GOA NOTES HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS REF: (A) STATE 17828C, (B) HUFNOS AIRTS 4444, (C) EVENOS AIRTS 4483 SURMANT: AS ANTICIPATED IN REMARCHES BY MARTINEZ DE HOZ IN BUTNOS AIRTS (REFTEL B) AND AMEASSADCE ALA ESPIL IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL A), AFGENTINE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED A WASHINGTON CREATEL A), AFGENTINE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED A

FM AMEMBASSY BUSNCS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1240 C.O. N. P. I. D. F. N. T. I. A. L. SECTION 1 OF 2. BUENOS AIRES 4535

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ACTION ARA-14
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INFO OCT-61 ISO-20 FB-27 IHA-62 CIAT-62 DODE-20 PM-04
B-C1 INR-27 L-C3 NSAT-60 NSC-25 PA-61 PRS-C1
SP-62 SS-15 USIA-66 AID-85 ACDA-67 OMB-61 TRSE-20
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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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---051019 2303542 /64 R 221858Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1041

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4638 4. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY STATEMENT THAT 667 SUBVERSIVE CASES

HAVE BEEN REMANDED TO THE FEDERAL COURTS (WITH 327 SENTENCES

PASSED) AND 305 CASES SENT TO SPECIAL MILITARY COURTS MARTIAL. (WITH 158 SENTENCES HANDED DOWN) APPEARED IN PRESS.

WITHOUT NAMES OR COMMENTARY. AS VERY FEW OF THESE TALKS AND SUBSEQUENT SENTENCING HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS OR

INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED BY EMBOFFS, WE CANNOT COMMENT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT.
5. PRESIDENT VIDELA'S REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORITIES

TO ANALYZE THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE SUSPENDED CONSTITUTIONAL

OPTION FOR PERSONS BEING HELD UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY RECALLS HIS EARLIER APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION CHAIRED BY INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY TO REVIEW

THE SUSPENSION LAST APRIL. AS A RESULT OF THE COMMISSION'S

DELIBERATIONS AT THAT TIME, LEGISLATION WAS PASSED TO EXTEND THE SUSPENSION FOR ANOTHER 150 DAYS BEGINNING MAT: 1, 1977. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS MEAN THE

OPTION WILL BE CONSIDERED MORE FAVORABLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE OR WILL ACTUALLY BE REINSTATED BEFORE THE PRESENT 150 DAYS SUSPENSION IS UP IN SEPTEMBER.

6. GOA SUSPENSION OF THE DISTRIBUTION, SALE, AND CIRCULATION OF THE MAY-JUNE CABILDO ISSUE NO. 8 WAS OF INTEREST. THE MAGAZINE

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WAS ACCUSED OF "PROPAGATING IDEOLOGICAL-RACIAL CONFLICT IN OPPOSITION TO THE NATION'S OBJECTIVES." THE DECREE FURTHER

PROHIBITED THE PRINTING AND CIRCULATION OF THE JULY ISSUE AND "ANY OTHER THAT ATTEMPTS TO REPLACE IT." THE BAN DOES NOT, HOWEVER, AFFECT THE MAGAZINE'S ADMINISTRATIVE OR PUBLISHING

CAPACITY BEYOND THE TWO ISSUES, AND THIS SHORT TERM SUSPENSION DOES LITTLE TO UNDO THE STRIDENT ANTI-SEMITIC RHETORIC OF THE APRIL CABILDO, ISSUE NO. 7. IT WAS THIS WHICH PROMPTED PROTESTS

BY JEWISH GROUPS IN ARGENTINA AND OCCASIONED LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS COMMENTARY (SEE BA 3370 AND 3631).

7. COMMENT: THIS FLURRY OF STATEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS UNDERTAKEN WITH THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF INFLUENCING THE U.S. VOTE ON TWO LARGE BANK LOANS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT-INTERVENED LA OPINION ON JUNE 16

PLATLY STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ACTIONS WERE CONFIDENTIAL.

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SIGNIFICANT MEASURES TO COUNTERACT ACCUSATIONS FROM ABROAD AND IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S IMMAGE OVERESEAS. (NO OTHER PAPER HAS IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S IMMAGE OVERESEAS. (NO OTHER PAPER HAS IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S IMMAGE OVERESEAS. (NO OTHER PAPER HAS IMPROVED IN THE STAD ANNOUNCEMENTS TO DATE.)
OMMENTED EDITORIALLY ON THE SOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS TO DATE.)
OMERITARY WAS NOTHING MORE THAN WARMED OVER STATISTICS AND SMOKESCREEN GESTURES OR WHETHER SOME WARMED OVER STATISTICS AND SMOKESCREEN GESTURES OR WHETHER SOME NEW ELEMENT HAS BEEN ADDED TO ARGENTINE EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD.
OUR CONCLUSION AFTER STUDYING THIS LATEST "EVIDENCE"—MUCH LIKE OUR INITIAL IMPRESSIONS REPORTED IN REF B—IS THAT THE OUR INITIATIVE IS HOLLOW FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, BUT INTERESTING INITIATIVE IS HOLLOW FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, BUT INTERESTING AND ENCOURAGING IN WHAT IT DEMONSTRATES ABOUT RISING ARGENTINE AND ENCOURAGING IN WHAT IT DEMONSTRATES ABOUT RISING ARGENTINE BUREACRATIC SENSITIVITY CONCERNING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION.

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FM AMEMBASSY EUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1241

G O Y F I D E W F I A L

4. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY STATEMENT THAT 667 SURVERSIVE CASES
PASSED) AND 365 CASES SENT TO SPECIAL MILITARY COURTS WATHENEY
WITHOUT NAMES OR COMMENTARY. AS VERY FEW OF THESE TALKS AND
SUBSECUENT SENTENCING HAVE HEYEN REPORTED IN THE STATES
INDEPENDENT SENTENCING HAVE HEYEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS OF
SIGNIFT

INFO CCT-21 ISO-26 EB-07 DEA-22 CIAE-26 DCDE-26 FM-24

H-21 INH-27 L-23 NSAE-26 NSC-25 PA-21 PRS-21
SP-62 SS-15 USIA-26 AID-25 ACDA-27 CFE-21 TRSE-22

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